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DATE : FEBRUARY 24, 1995

TO : FILES

FROM : POL - BENNY GARCIA

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DECEMBER 1992 BAMACA SIGHTING
ON FEBRUARY 18 PM, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AND ASKED IF WE COULD HAVE AN URGENT MEETING
TO DISCUSS A REPORT THAT AN ACTIVE DUTY ARMY OFFICER HAD
TOLD MINUGUA REPRESENTATIVES ON FEBRUARY 17, THAT HE HAD
SEEN "BAMACA" ALIVE IN DECEMBER 1992. DETAILS OF MY
[REDACTED] MEETINGS WITH [REDACTED]
FOLLOW:

Approved for Release
Date June 1996

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ANONYMOUS CALL: ON FEBRUARY 17 AM, MINUGUA OFFICIALS RECEIVED A CALL FROM AN INMATE AT THE ZONA PREVENTIVO IN ZONE 18 ASKING THAT MINUGUA OFFICIALS VISIT HIM SO HE COULD PASS ON INFORMATION. MINUGUA SENT A TEAM TO INTERVIEW HIM. UPON ARRIVAL, THE CALLER IDENTIFIED HIMSELF TO MINUGUA OFFICERS AS AN ARMY OFFICER AWAITING CHARGES FOR AN APRIL 1994 RAPE, WHICH HE CLAIMS IS FALSE. AFTER THIS FIRST AM INTERVIEW, MINUGUA CONDUCTED A SECOND PM INTERVIEW.

BAMACA CAPTURE: ACCORDING TO THIS ALLEGED ACTIVE DUTY ARMY OFFICER, THE ARMY LEARNED THAT "BAMACA" WOULD BE TRAVELING OUTSIDE OF GUERRILLA CONTROLLED AREAS AND SO IT SET UP A ROAD BLOCK BETWEEN "TRAYECTO DE PAJAPITA AND NUEVO SAN MARCOS EN LA RUTA SANTA ANA BERLIN - HECTEPEQUEZ." (NOTE: AFTER CHECKING A GUATEMALAN MAP, WE BELIEVE MINUGUA MISUNDERSTOOD THE CORRECT LOCATION WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE: "TRAYECTO DE PAJAPITA AND NUEVO SAN CARLOS EN LA RUTA SANTA ANA BERLIN - COATEPEQUE".) BAMACA WAS APPREHENDED BY ARMY CAPTAIN CORSANTES ALVARADO (NOTE: THE OFFICER DID NOT STATE THE DATE BAMACA WAS CAPTURED.).

INCOGNITO: BAMACA WAS THEN TAKEN TO THE ARMY BASE AT SAN MARCOS. THIS ARMY OFFICER CLAIMS THAT HE WAS IN CHARGE OF RECORDING ALL BASE PERSONNEL ENTRIES AND EXITS AT SAN MARCOS AND THAT HE WAS ORDERED NOT TO RECORD THE ENTRY OF BAMACA BECAUSE OF BAMACA'S GUERRILLA STATUS. AFTER BAMACA'S CAPTURE, THE GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE SAN MARCOS BASE SEVERAL TIMES BUT WERE NEVER ABLE TO FREE THEIR COLLEAGUE.

THE OFFICER STATED THAT IN THE TIME FRAME BETWEEN BAMACA'S CAPTURE AND MID-LATE DECEMBER 1992, G-2 PERSONNEL KEPT BAMACA ON THE MOVE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR SECURITY REASONS. HOWEVER, "BAMACA" WAS TAKEN TO D-2 GUATEMALA CITY HEADQUARTERS FOR FURTHER, MORE INTENSIVE INTERROGATIONS. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICER, DURING THESE TRIPS, THE G-2 DRESSED BAMACA IN A MILITARY UNIFORM AND PLACED HIS RIGHT LEG IN A CAST TO KEEP HIM PARTIALLY IMMOBILE. THE OFFICER ADDS THAT ONE OF THE LOCATIONS USED TO HIDE BAMACA WAS A JAIL ON A NAVY BASE ON THE SOUTHERN COAST, WHERE OLD CARS ARE KEPT. THE SOLDIER PROMISED MINUGUA OFFICIALS THAT HE WOULD PRESENT PICTURES OF THIS "CLANDESTINE JAIL," UPON HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON, WHICH HE EXPECTS WILL BE SOON. THE OFFICER CLAIMS THAT AFTER BAMACA'S CAPTURE, MANY OTHER GUERRILLAS WERE CAPTURED AND THE G-2 WOULD ROUTINELY ESCORT THEM INTO THE CAPITAL FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING.

FACE TO FACE SIGHTING: IN DECEMBER 1992, THIS OFFICER CLAIMS HE SAW BAMACA FACE-TO-FACE, WHEN THE OFFICER "COULDN'T RESIST THE URGE" AND HE WALKED INTO THE ROOM AT THE SAN MARCOS BASE WHERE BAMACA WAS BEING KEPT AT THAT TIME. FOR THIS INDISCRETION, THE OFFICER WAS TRANSFERRED FROM SAN MARCOS IN JANUARY 1993 AND SENT TO A NAVY BASE ON THE SOUTHERN COAST (MINUGUA DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS IS THE SAME BASE THAT THE OFFICER CLAIMS BAMACA WAS TAKEN.). MY MINUGUA CONTACT STATED THE OFFICER GAVE CONTRADICTORY AND SPECULATIVE ANSWERS REGARDING WHAT HAPPENED TO BAMACA AFTER THE OFFICER'S DEPARTURE AND HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE OFFICER HAS ANY IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO BAMACA AFTER JANUARY 1993.

[REDACTED] BELIEVES THAT THIS OFFICER IS TELLING THE TRUTH THOUGH HE ADMITS THAT BECAUSE THIS OFFICER SPENT TIME AT THE CUARTEL GENERAL AND IS NOW INCARCERATED IN AN AMBIGUOUS STATUS HIS FULL CREDIBILITY IS SUSPECT (NOTE: IT IS ENTIRELY LIKELY BASED ON ARMY PRACTICE THAT THE OFFICER WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE CUARTEL FOR SOME BREACH OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE PRIOR TO THE APRIL 1994 RAPE CHARGE AND THAT HE WAS PROBABLY RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY FOR THE RAPE CHARGE OR OTHER VIOLATIONS OF MILITARY OR CIVILIAN LAW. DESPITE HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE IS WAITING FOR THE JUDGE TO DROP THE RAPE CHARGE, THIS OFFICER COULD IN FACT BE SERVING HIS SENTENCE IN A CIVILIAN JAIL FOR THE ALLEGED RAPE.) [REDACTED] THE FIRST [REDACTED] INTERVIEW, THE OFFICER ONLY ASKED THAT MINUGUA PROTECT HIM FROM ARMY REPRISALS BUT, AT THE SECOND INTERVIEW, HE ALSO ASKED THAT HE BE TAKEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY UPON HIS RELEASE.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] SHOW THAT CPT CORSANTES ALVARADO WAS INDEED ASSIGNED TO THE ARMY BASE AT SAN MARCOS DURING 1992 AS THE ARMY OFFICER CLAIMS. LIKEWISE, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BAMAHA WAS IMMOBILIZED USING A CAST DURING HIS CAPTIVITY AT SAN MARCOS. THESE ITEMS OF INFORMATION CONFIRM AT LEAST PARTS OF THE ARMY OFFICER'S STORY, LENDING HIM SOME CREDIBILITY.

CLEARED:POL:GACHESTER
DAO:DKELLER
DCM:JFKEANE -

CC:AMB, DCM, DAO, USIS, CONS, POL, DESK

END TEXT OF EMBASSY MEMORANDUM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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